

Ottawa County Road Commission

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March 22, 2018

The Honorable Lee Chatfield
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Re: HB5723

Dear Representative Chatfield:

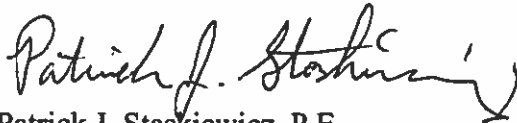
The Ottawa County Road Commission, Public Utilities Department, has been assisting municipalities in Ottawa County with their water and wastewater infrastructure for over 50 years. During that time, we have worked with many municipal officials and their engineering consultants to develop project specifications, including which pipe material is appropriate for the project. We are concerned that HB 5723 will take the selection of pipe out of the hands of local municipalities and their design engineers and increase the cost and time needed to construct utility extensions.

HB 5723 implies that all water pipe materials are the equal if they meet the minimum American Water Works Association or American Society for Testing Materials standards. We believe this is intentionally misleading and an inappropriate way to reference these standards.

HB 5723 also creates a poor definition of the word ordinance. Municipalities do not select materials for their systems through an ordinance. We believe this will lead to confusion, not only with the implementation of this law, but in other Michigan law. This is a dangerous precedent to set.

Please continue to allow local municipalities to choose the materials that are appropriate to use in their water and wastewater system and oppose HB 5723.

Sincerely,



Patrick J. Staskiewicz, P.E.
Public Utilities Director
Ottawa County Road Commission

Cc: Representative Jim Lilly